Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Are there not many Cochinites in Madras Presidency?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* There are.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* If any discrimination is made against any Madras Presidency subjects, will not discrimination be made against Cochinites in the Madras Presidency?

Mr. K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* Discrimination is already made there against Cochinites even in regard to admission to the Colleges.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know whether all these people are born Cochinites.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* All that I can say is they are Cochinites.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* I think most of them might have purchased property in Cochin and become Cochinites.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes. What of that?

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* The answer to questions (*c*) and (*d*) is: "The recommendations are confidential and it is not in public interest to reveal their details". Is it confidential from the point of view of the Government or is it confidential from the point of view of the Harbour Authorities?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* Both from the standpoint of the Government and the Harbour authorities. When recommendations are made by officers to other officers they are invariably treated as confidential. It is only the result that is published.

HARBOUR OFFICES—SPECIAL HOLIDAYS FOR STATE—OBSERVANCE OF

104. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether holidays were given for the staff of the Harbour Office as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Maharaja of blessed memory;

(*b*) whether the birthdays of our Rulers are observed as holidays in the offices of the Harbour Department in the Willingdon Island;

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(*c*) whether flags were flown half-mast as an observance of mourning as a mark of respect to the memory of our late Ruler;

(*d*) whether the day of installation of the present Maharaja was treated as a holiday in the Harbour and attached offices in the Willingdon Island;

(*e*) if the answer to all or any of the above questions is in the negative, whether Government be pleased to take the necessary steps to see that the offices attached to the Cochin Harbour in the Willingdon Island observe these holidays?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) Yes, one day.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Will be considered.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will the Government be good enough to appeal to the Harbour authorities to observe this?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* The Government have already answered this question. We do not want to make any positive statement.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin Christians-Ernakulam):* How is the Government going to consider to make the Harbour authorities to observe a holiday which cannot occur again, *i. e.*, Installation of the present Maharaja?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* We thought the question had some meaning.

JAIL REFORMS

105. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Government have brought into effect any of the reforms suggested by the annual meeting of the Madras Presidency Non-Official Jail Visitors' Association which has been noted by Government in their reply to question No. 36 (b) given on the floor of the Legislative Council on 19th November 1940;

(*b*) whether Government have considered about the necessity of starting a reading room in the Central

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